

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed December 28, 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this application, each of the issues raised in the Office Action is addressed herein.

Claims 1, 16-19, 21, 22, 25-33 and 66-298 presently are pending in this application, of which claims 1, 16, 17, 25, 66, 80, 85, and 175 are independent claims. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 33, 86 and 88. The application as now presented is believed to be in allowable condition.

A. Allowed Claims / Claim Amendments

Applicants note with appreciation that on page 5 of the Office Action, claims 1, 16-19, 21, 22, 25-32, 66-85, 175-182 and 210-298 are allowed.

In view of the foregoing, while not acceding to the propriety of any claim rejections over prior art set forth in the Office Action, Applicants have rewritten previously independent claims 33, 86 and 88 to now depend from allowed claim 25, so as to expedite the prosecution of this application towards allowance. These amendments essentially re-present claims 33, 86 and 88 in the form in which they were pending prior to Applicants' response dated August 22, 2003 to a previous Office Action dated May 22, 2003. As a result of the current amendments, the application should now be in condition for allowance.

B. Claim Objections

In item 2 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 110 and 111 were objected to as allegedly being identical. Applicants respectfully point out that these claims are not identical; rather, claim 110 recites a feature of "an overall *intensity* of the resulting spectrum," while claim 111 recites a different feature of "an overall *color* of the resulting spectrum." Accordingly, the objection to claims 110 and 111 should be withdrawn.

C. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

In items 4-9 on pages 2-5 of the Office Action, various claims, including formerly independent claims 33, 86 and 88, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly being

anticipated by either Blessing (DE 19651140) or Conway et al. (US 6,149,283). These rejections are rendered moot by the amendments herein, which were made solely to expedite prosecution of this application toward allowance. Applicants do not concede that the foregoing rejections are proper, and reserve the right to file one or more related applications directed to the subject matter of the claims prior to the amendments herein.

D. Information Disclosure Statement

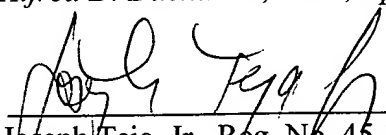
Applicants respectfully request review by the Examiner of an Information Disclosure Statement previously filed on January 10, 2005.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below to discuss any issues relating to the allowability of this application.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50/2762.

Respectfully submitted,
Alfred D. Ducharme, et al., Applicants

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